MLA International Bibliography (MLAIB): Advanced Search Tips

MLAIB: The MLA International Bibliography consists of bibliographic references from more than 4,400 journals in the fields of literature, language, linguistics and folklore from 1926 to the present. It also indexes books, dissertations and websites. Book reviews are not indexed. MLAIB also includes the full text of more than 300 journals, as well as links to relevant full-text journals on Project MUSE and JSTOR, some dating back to 1884.

On the MLAIB Standard Search screen (default), the link to the Advanced Search is located near the bottom of the screen. The Advanced Search screen organizes the number of subject fields into subdivisions, which allows a search to be more focused. For each of these fields, click on *select from thesaurus* to get a list of available terms specific to that field, including non-preferred terms. The **Subjects – All** field contains terms not available in the other fields. Here are the most important subject subdivisions:

Author as Subject

The *select from thesaurus* feature lists pseudonyms and the preferred name used by the MLA.
- Example: Twain Mark is not used; Clemens Samuel is used.

Genre

1. Retrieves items relating to the genre as a whole, rather than a specific literary work.
   - Example: to find items about the English 18th century novel, enter this search in these fields:
     - **Genre**: novel
     - **National Literature**: English literature
     - **Period**: 1700-1799

2. Retrieves items about general or specific literary theories.
   - Examples: literary theory and criticism; ecocriticism; New Historicism, etc.
   - Hint: to see a list of all the narrower and related terms, enter literary theory and criticism in the **Subjects – All** field and click on *select from thesaurus*, select the term using the checkbox, then click on *related terms*.

Literary Influence and Literary Source

1. **Literary influence** retrieves items relating to influence *on* an author or something, such as a literary group or movement, a literary theory, or a genre.
2. **Literary source** retrieves items relating to influence *by* an author or something, such as a literary group or movement, a literary theory, or a genre.
   - Examples: Atwood Margaret; Beat Generation; deconstructionism; poetry
   - Note: These fields do not retrieve pre-1981 data (except for JSTOR journals).

Literary Theme

This field contains subject terms relating to the themes of the work(s) under discussion.
- Examples: Canada; birds; 1960s; war; students
- Note: This field is less frequently used in pre-1981 data.

National Literature

This field contains subject terms relating to national literatures, expressed in adjectival form.
- Examples: English Literature; Canadian Literature

Performance Medium

This field contains subject terms relating to performance media.
- Examples: film; opera; radio; television; theater; puppet theater; street theater

Period

This field contains subject terms relating to time periods, expressed as years of a century.
- Examples: 1700-1799; 2000-2099

Publisher Abstract

This field allows searching the publisher-provided abstract or summary of the article.
- Can be searched by keyword or words can be selected from a list.
- **Note**: this field was introduced in April 2008, but it has been applied retrospectively. Regular keyword searches in Standard Search mode will also search this field.

Subjects – All

Some fields are displayed in the record, but are only searchable within Subjects – All. A prefix can be used in this field.
1. **Scholarly Approach**: contains subject terms relating to the scholarly approach used by the critic.
   - Examples: feminist approach, deconstructionist approach
   - Examples with prefix: SAP=feminist approach; SAP=deconstructionist approach
   - Note: This field is not used in pre-1981 data (except for JSTOR journals).
2. **Scholarly Theory/Discipline/Type**: Contains subject terms relating to scholarly theories, disciplines or types.
   - Examples: queer theory; attribution of authorship; genre study
   - Examples with prefix: SCP=queer theory; SCP=attribution of authorship; SCP=genre study